

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner questions the meaning of the following "circuit is operational to protect the apparatus against reverse current flow in a high-side connected to a supply voltage against a reverse current flow in a low-side connected to ground". In view of the changes made below which makes this language superfluous, this language has been deleted from Claim 1.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 8-14, 18, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Williams. The Examiner rejects claims 5, 6, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams. The Examiner states that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the '112 rejection and to include the limitations of the base claim any intervening claims. The Examiner states that Claim 17 and 20 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations to the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicants have combined claims 1, 2 and 7 to form a new Claim 7 and eliminated the text that the Examiner found confusing since it is now superfluous with the recitation of the elements to produce that affect.

Applicants have combined claims 8, 11 and 17 to produce a new Claim 17 and combined claims 18 and 19 with Claim 20 to produce a new Claim 20, both of which the Examiner has found to be allowable. The sub-claims have been amended in order to change the dependencies to the new claims, where necessary and method Claim 21 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Accordingly, Applicants believe the Application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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